

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-12 (Cancelled).

13. (New) A search support apparatus comprising:

a search condition registration section that registers object search conditions;

a communication section that detects a communication apparatus which exists in a communication area, receives information about the object under the control of said communication apparatus and transmits the search conditions registered in said search condition registration section to said communication apparatus;

a control section that compares the information about the object received from said communication section with the search conditions registered in said search condition registration section, transmits said comparison result to said communication apparatus through said communication section, receives the comparison result from said communication apparatus through said communication section and outputs a control signal for

controlling a reporting operation according to both the transmitted and received comparison results; and

a reporting section that executes a reporting operation through the control signal output from said control section, wherein said search condition registration section registers personal information about a user who uses the apparatus and object information such as characteristics and preferences of the person as said object search conditions, and

said control section comprises a confirmation section that confirms, when both said transmitted and received comparison results match, permission to transmit the personal information registered in said search condition registration section to said communication apparatus and transmits, when the transmission is permitted, said personal information to said communication apparatus through said communication section.

14. (New) The search support apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said control section measures a distance from said communication apparatus based on the reception intensity of the received signal by said communication section, generates and outputs said control signal according to said measured distance, and said reporting section changes the contents of the reporting

operation according to the control signal output from said control section.

15. (New) The search support apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said reporting section comprises a vibration control section and a vibration section and the vibration control section changes the intensity or the period of vibration of the vibration section according to the control signal output from said control section.

16. (New) The search support apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said reporting section comprises a sound information storage section, a sound reproduction section, a volume control section and a sound generation section, and the sound reproduction section selects sound information stored in the sound information storage section according to the control signal output from said control section, outputs a reproduction sound signal and volume control signal to the volume control section and controls the amount of said reproduced sound generated.

17. (New) The search support apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said reporting section comprises a blink period

light-emitting intensity control section and a light-emitting section, and the blink period light-emitting intensity control section changes the blink period or the light-emitting intensity of the light-emitting section according to the control signal output from said control section.

18. (Amended) The search support apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said reporting section comprises an image information storage section, an image reproduction section and a display section, and the image reproduction section selects image information stored in the image storage section according to the control signal output from said control section, outputs an image reproduction signal to the display section and displays a reproduced image.

19. (New) The search support apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said reporting section comprises a smell information storage section, a smell reproduction section and a fragrance generation section, and the smell reproduction section selects the smell information stored in the smell information storage section according to the control signal output from said control section, outputs a smell reproduction signal to the fragrance

generation section, generates fragrance in the fragrance generation section and changes the amount of said fragrance generated.

20. (New) The search support apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising an image-pickup section that performs image pickup in a plurality of image-pickup modes, wherein said control section comprises an image-pickup mode selection section that allows said user to select a desired image-pickup mode, applies predetermined processing to the user's image captured in the selected image-pickup mode and transmits the image to said communication apparatus through said communication section.

21. (New) A search support method comprising:
a search condition registration step of registering object search conditions;
a communication step of detecting a communication apparatus which exists in a communication area, receiving information about the object under the control of said communication apparatus and transmitting the search conditions registered in said search condition registration section to said communication apparatus;

a control step of comparing said received information about the object with said registered search conditions, transmitting said comparison result to said communication apparatus, receiving the comparison result from said communication apparatus and outputting a control signal for controlling a reporting operation according to both the transmitted and received comparison results;

a reporting step of executing a reporting operation according to said output control signal;

a step of registering personal information about a user who uses the apparatus and object information such as characteristics and preferences of the person as said object search conditions;

a step of confirming, when both said transmitted and received comparison results match, permission to transmit the registered personal information to said communication apparatus; and

a step of transmitting, when the transmission is permitted, said personal information to said communication apparatus.